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FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D C -- Members of the Texas State Society of Washington enjoyed a gala Mexican Fiesta here. I took advantage of the occasion to announce that I would not be a candidate for a second term as president of the Society. (Please note that this announcement does not, repeat not, apply to any other elective office I hold!) The announcement did not, I have to report, cast a pall of gloom over the evening's festivities, although some people were nice enough to say a few kind words about my administration. Anyway, I retain the office until next March.

Almost 700 people jammed a big room in the Rayburn Building of the House of Representatives to ooh and ah over the magnificent decorations and to enjoy the really great Mexican food brought to us by the famous El Chico Corporation of Dallas, who catered the affair, music and all. The famous Los Conquistadores Mariachi group from San Antonio with Rosita Fernandez provided the music. Included in the offerings from El Chico were some especially made pralines. In fact everything the Chico people served came from Texas. The art of the 15th District of Texas also contributed greatly to the success of the event. The ZONTA ladies, through the cooperation of Mrs Eleanor Phillips of Mission and Pharr, provided the talents of Miss Joan McCarter of Mission who hand painted Mexican scenes on wrappings for door prizes. Les Swanson, prominent Harlingen architect, was visiting in my office one day prior to the event and was conned into making the announcements which were widely acclaimed. And Starr County Judge Mario Ramirez favored us with a supply of home-made candy that was out of this world. Our dining room was gay with bright tablecloths, miniature pinatas, and criss-cross paper streamers. And the mood of the crowd matched the decor. The bi-cultural characteristic of our region prevailed in perfect harmony--indeed it was a good evening for Texans in Washington.

* * *

SELF-HELP DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM -- Under a new "Help Communities Help Themselves" program, small Federal grants will be awarded to communities to assist them in developing the capacity to provide comprehensive drug education programs.

The grants will be used specifically and exclusively to support the training of teams of five or six individuals at training and support centers located in their general geographical regions. These centers will provide the teams with skills which should enable them to return to their communities with the capability to determine the local drug problem, assess and mobilize their community's resources, and develop a coordinated community program for responding to their drug problem.

For the purpose of this program, a community is defined as a set of people who have common needs and should be able to affect decisions which affect them. Ordinarily this might be a town, a neighborhood, a specified rural area, or an organic or legal entity such as a school community or a college community. The U S Office of Education is authorized to make grants to, or negotiate contracts with, public and private non-profit agencies, organizations, and institutions for the purpose of planning and carrying out such projects.

The concept of "community" is flexible, and the Office of Education is willing to consider any reasonable type of organization as an applicant. The community grants will cover training and related costs, including transportation and basic living expenses, to attend one of the eight training and support centers to be selected before January 1, 1972.

Deadline for applications is December 10. I will be glad to provide further information and the necessary application forms to any interested groups in the 15th Congressional District.

* * *

CHRISTMAS MAIL -- From the U S Postal Services come suggestions about some final dates for Christmas mailing. For distant states, except Alaska and Hawaii, parcels by regular mail should be posted by December 1; greeting cards with eight-cent stamps by December 10. The suggested dates for Alaska and Hawaii are November 30 for parcels and December 5 for greeting cards by regular mail; December 15 for both parcels and cards by airmail. Local and nearby areas: regular mail parcels, December 10; greeting cards, December 15. Airmail parcels to both nearby areas and distant states should be sent by December 15, and greeting cards by December 22.

Christmas parcels to servicemen overseas should be mailed on the following schedule: space-available mail should already have been sent; parcel airlift, November 26; airmail, December 10. Greeting cards should be mailed right now in regular mail and by December 10 in airmail.

Parcels and greeting cards to most foreign countries should now go by air to arrive by Christmas. Exceptions are Mexico and Canada with deadlines of December 3 for parcels and December 8 for greeting cards by regular mail; December 15 for air parcels, and December 20 for cards by air. The dock strike has caused an embargo on surface mail to Europe and Central America, and deadlines for Christmas mail by air are December 13 for parcels and December 18 for greeting cards.

So mail early and relax!

* * *

SUMMER JOBS WITH U S -- Three examinations will be conducted for 1972 summer jobs in Federal agencies. Candidates whose applications are received by December 3 will be tested January 8; those whose applications arrive by January 7 will be tested February 12; and those whose applications are received by February 2 will be tested March 11. Instructions for filing and information on opportunities available are contained in "CSC Announcement No. 414, Summer Jobs in Federal Agencies." Copies may be obtained at many post offices--or I will be glad to send a copy to any interested South Texan.

* * *

LET US OFFER THANKS -- Thanksgiving is the unique American holiday--a day of prayerful thanks that we have weathered past storms and, trusting in God, that we will be able to meet present and future problems. I know all South Texas will observe the day in that spirit.

* * *

VISITORS FROM HOME -- Visiting my office from home this week were: Dorothy Gonzalez, Diana Cantu, Emilio Morales and Alva Gonzalez of San Juan; Pablo Pena, Jr. and Hector Montalvo of Weslaco; Robert Garza, Rudy Lucio, Sylvia Uresti, Jaime Baldazo, Olga Baldazo, Manuel Baldazo, and Mike Perez of Alamo; Connie Palacios of Harlingen; Patty Navarro of Edinburg; Mr and Mrs "Tock" Uhlhorn and their son, Tudor, of San Benito; Mr John C Jones, Jr. of La Feria; Mr Wade Terrell of McAllen; Cadet Marshall L Best of Falfurrias, presently attending West Point; Father John Jerald Castro of Brownsville with his group which included: Jesse Lucio, Irma Saenz, Rogelio Lopez, Patricia Martinez, Jackie Hanley, and Gene Miller.

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